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4 June 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Deputy Director for
Intelligence

SUBJECT : Field Test 51

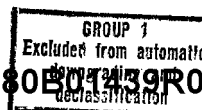
1. This is to acquaint you and Jack with Field Test 51 (FT-51) now being planned by the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, and to make you aware of the test's present impact on OSR and potential impact on CIA.

2. Since 1962, ACDA has conducted a series of research studies and field tests to develop techniques for verifying arms control limitations on general purpose ground and air forces. Because of increasing US and NATO interest in balanced force reduction, and because general purpose force verification problems remain unresolved by past research, ACDA has been planning for the last year or so to hold FT-51.

3. The purpose of FT-51 is to evaluate the capability of verification systems using unilateral intelligence (with and without the integration of overt inspection elements) to assess compliance of agreements limiting and reducing general purpose forces in Central Europe. A major factor influencing the design of FT-51 is the question of whether unilateral intelligence as a sole information source is adequate for verification or whether it has to be supplemented by an agreed overt ground inspection system. The draft plan for FT-51 includes ACDA efforts to incorporate features into the exercise which would "measure the most sophisticated and advanced US intelligence capabilities, as well as those available to NATO, against known ground truth in order to determine what gaps need to be filled by overt ground inspectors."

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4. ACDA has designed FT-51 as purely a US test. However, recognizing the need for placing it in the most realistic environment possible the southern part of the Federal Republic of Germany has been chosen as its setting. It will use elements of both US and FRG ground and air forces as targets. To accommodate allied desires for participation, FT-51 is further designed so that a part of the test can be viewed by NATO observers and that it can be followed by a multinational NATO arms control exercise using some of the same target forces and facilities employed by FT-51.

5. ACDA acknowledges its "full responsibility for planning, execution and evaluation of FT-51." However, it also recognizes that the planning and execution of the test is possible only with the active participation and cooperation of the Department of Defense, the US intelligence community, NATO authorities at SHAPE, and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany.

6. It is in the initial phase of the planning that we are now involved. OSR represents CIA on the Intelligence Steering Committee for FT-51. This representation consists of a CIA member and an alternate member. The mission of this committee is to:

"...review intelligence aspects of the test during planning operations and analysis. They will advise the Test Director on intelligence matters, recommend guidelines for the handling and filtering of intelligence information used in the test, and review proposed procedures for the simulation of those intelligence inputs which require this treatment."

From time to time the CIA representatives and the other committee members from DIA, State, NSA, and the services are expected to provide specialists from within their agencies as the need arises.

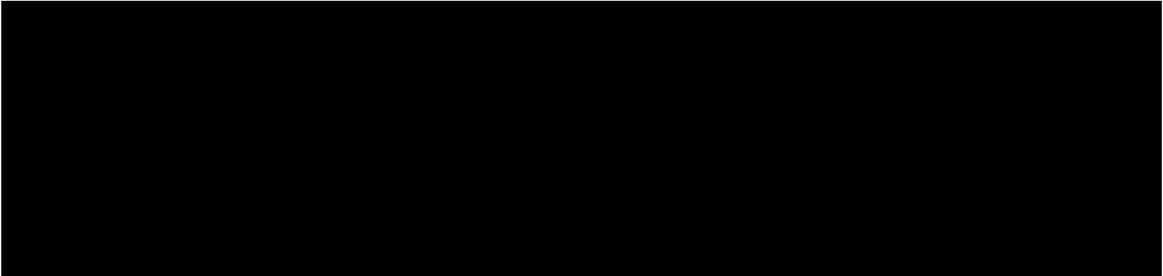
7. Until now FT-15 has been something of an on-again-off-again proposition--generally more off than on. However, the advent of NSSM-92, which deals with the subject of Mutual Balanced Force Reductions, may breathe new life into FT-51. In short, the test may

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come to be viewed as a means of testing the verification conclusions and overt inspection techniques which will be developed out of the work on this NSSM.

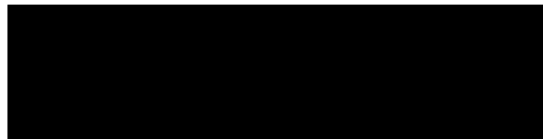


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9. I believe it is important that CIA play as full a role in FT-51 as resources will permit. We stand to learn a good deal about the utility and reliability of the collection capabilities now targeted against Soviet and Warsaw Pact theater forces. This will help in the intelligence analysis of these forces and in our work on interagency NSC studies like NSSM 92. Beyond that, I believe our participation is essential to keep realism and balance in the situation lest it be dominated by its ACDA advocates.

10. I plan to call a meeting of representatives from interested components in the Agency, such as the DDS and COMIREX, to familiarize them with the plans for FT-51 and to get their views on support that CIA may be called on to support. Before I do this, I'd welcome the opportunity to brief you and get your counsel.

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BRUCE C. CLARKE, Jr.
Director
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